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ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1944

BY

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S.

TOGETHER WITH

The Report

OF

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.

70650

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G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S.

Sanitary Inspector :

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.

Clerks :

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(*H.M. Forces since May 1943*)

Public Health Department :

11 Shenley Road, Boreham Wood, Herts.



Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my fourth annual report on the health of the district, for the year 1944.

DIPHTHERIA

Seventy-five per cent. of the children under 5 and sixty-six per cent. of those between 5 and 15, in the district, had completed the full course of immunisation at the close of the year under review. There was one notification of diphtheria during the year, the first case since November 1941.

SCABIES

During 1944, 121 persons from 26 families have been treated at the First Aid Post. In no known case has reinfestation occurred. It was not necessary to serve any notices under the Scabies Order 1941, requiring infected persons to attend for medical examination. There is every indication of a considerable reduction in the incidence of scabies, in the district, since the scheme for treatment at the First Aid Post was inaugurated in January 1943.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 11 new cases during the year as against 20, 16, 19, 9 and 15 respectively in the years 1943 to 1939 inclusive.

RURAL HOUSING

Notable progress has already been made in connection with the initial Housing Survey, on the lines recommended by the Minister of Health in Circular 64/1944. More than 200 visits and inspections had been made up to the close of 1944 and the

Sanitary Inspector has attended the County Conferences which have been called for the purpose of regulating standards throughout the County.

In common with most districts, particularly those on the fringe of Greater London, we are experiencing a grave shortage of housing accommodation, and many families in the district are living in badly overcrowded conditions. During the war there has been a considerable influx of homeless persons and priority classes and it seems certain that the majority of these will wish to remain in the district after the war. It is hoped that the day is not far distant when the local authority can begin to devote all its resources to an energetic housing programme.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report, which begins on page 9, gives statistics of inspections, etc., during the year, and considering war-time difficulties, is a creditable record of vigilance and achievement in public health matters.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. WINN EVERETT,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area: (Elstree 2,180, Ridge 2,521, Shenley 3,638)...	8,339 acres
Population, 1921 Census	4,513
Population, 1931 Census	6,400
Registrar-General's estimate of	
(a) resident population mid-1944 ...	10,760
(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates ...	
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Books ...	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;">{</div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> Elstree 1,936 Shenley 548 Ridge 75 </div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;">}</div> </div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-left: 10px;">2,559</div> </div>
Rateable Value (1st April, 1945)	£124,005
Estimated product of a penny rate (1st April, 1945)	£480

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Vide Annual Report for 1939.

VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	169	81	88
	Illegitimate	11	6	5
Birth Rate: 16·7 per 1,000 <i>estimated</i> <i>resident population mid-1944</i>				
Stillbirths		6	4	2
Rate: 32·3 per 1,000 <i>total (live and still) births.</i>				
Deaths		82	37	45
Death Rate: 7·6 per 1,000 <i>estimated</i> <i>average population.</i>				

The Death Rates for England and Wales and for the Administrative County of London respectively are given as 11.6 and 15.7 per 1,000 population.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
<i>Deaths from puerperal causes:—</i>		
Puerperal sepsis		—
Other puerperal causes ...		—
Total		—

Death rates of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	27·8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	17·8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	181·8
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	21
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Vide Annual Report for 1939.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER. The following information with respect to the water supply of the area is given in accordance with Circular 49/45 of the Ministry of Health dated 19th March, 1945.

- i. (a) The water supply was maintained during 1944 at a satisfactory standard in quality.
- (b) As to quantity, it was necessary during the year to curtail supplies for certain non-domestic services involving the use of hose (mostly for gardens and sprinklers) in order to ensure a full supply for domestic and industrial purposes. These restrictions have now been relaxed.

2. The Colne Valley Water Company are the suppliers and they state that frequently chemical and bacteriological examinations of the raw water and of the treated waters were carried out by the Company's staff and by The County Public Health Laboratory. The results were satisfactory.
3. The water is not plumbo-solvent.
4. There was no action during the year in respect of any contamination.
5. Of the 2,559 houses in the district
 - (a) About 2,519 or 99 per cent. are supplied from piped water mains direct to the house and
 - (b) About 25 or 1 per cent. by means of standpipes.
 The few remaining houses are without piped water supply.

Vide also Annual Report for 1939.

SECTIONS D and E

Sections D and E dealing respectively with housing and food inspection have been omitted from my report as there is nothing noteworthy to add to the details given on pages 8 to 11 of my report for 1939. Statistics which fall within the purview of these sections are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, which opens on page 9.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There were 30 cases of Scarlet Fever all of which occurred in private households, and were removed to Hospital.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year:—

Disease	Total notified	Total cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	30	30	1
Diphtheria	1	1	1
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Erysipelas	8	2	—
Measles	37	—	—
Whooping Cough	13	—	—
Pneumonia	8	1	6

Age-Group	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & up
Scarlet Fever		1	2	5	2	15	4	1				
Diphtheria		1										
Puerperal Fever									1			
Puerperal Pyrexia									1			
Erysipelas						1			2	1	3	1
Measles		6	9	8	5	8			1			
Whooping Cough	1	1		3	3	5						
Pneumonia	1	1				1	1			3	1	

Tuberculosis—*New cases and mortality during 1944.*

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—5 ...		1	1	1				
5—10 ...								
10—15 ...								
15—20 ...		1						
20—25 ...				1				
25—30 ...								
30—35 ...	1							
35—45 ...	3							
45—65 ...	2							
TOTAL	6	2	1	2	2	—	—	1

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit my sixth Annual Report with the pleasant thought that it will be the last I shall prepare in war-time. This Report has the same hallmark of austerity; tables and statistics are left to tell their own story.

The year under review is noteworthy for a welcome slackening of civil defence commitments. This came at a time when Circular 64/1944 of the Ministry of Health calling for a rural housing survey, was issued. The purpose of the survey is to ascertain the condition of each house in the district and to place it in one of five categories ranging from satisfactory in all respects to unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense. It is therefore a fact-finding survey and there is no immediate necessity for very detailed inspections, especially of those houses which are known to fall in categories one and two, that is to say satisfactory or with minor defects only. I think that I am now in a position to say that the initial survey will be completed in 1945.

I cannot say how pleased I am to roll up my sleeves and get back to public health matters. They have never, I trust, wholly been neglected but have on many occasions been pushed into the background by the exigencies of war.

The confidence you have placed in me at all times, and your continued support, prompt me to hope that I can go forward to the problems of peace assured of your help and encouragement.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. S. BLACKHALL,
Sanitary Inspector.

DETAILS OF INTIMATION AND STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Intimation Notices

Nature of Defects	No. of Notices served
General housing defects, including leaking roofs, dampness, defective plaster, floors, windowframes, etc. ...	38
Absence of necessary information in rent books (Sections 4 and 62 of the Housing Act, 1936) ...	6
Drainage ...	26
Defective w.c. and sink connections ...	10
Absence of, or dilapidated dustbins ...	11
Choked and insanitary water courses ...	3
Filthy or verminous premises ...	1
Insufficient water supply ...	3
Waste of water (referred to the Colne Valley Water Board) ...	4
Offensive accumulations ...	6
Improper keeping of animals ...	1
Dairies and cowsheds... ...	6
Food Preparers ...	—
Factories and Offices ...	4
Bakehouses ...	3
Stables and Piggeries ...	1
Nuisance from smoke or effluvia ...	1
Unauthorised use of land as site for moveable dwellings ...	1
TOTAL	125

Statutory Notices

Nature of Defects	Statute	No. of Notices served	No. of Houses or Premises affected
Filthy or verminous premises ...	Section 83, Public Health Act 1936	1	1
Absence of, or dilapi- dated, dustbin ...	Section 75, Public Health Act 1936	2	2
General housing defects	Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	1	1
Nuisances ...	Section 39, Public Health Act 1936	1	1
Smoke Nuisance ...	Section 93, Public Health Act 1936	1	1
	TOTAL	6	6

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

	No. of Houses
Repairs to plastering and woodwork	8
Floors repaired	6
Window frames repaired and sash cords renewed...	1
Leaking roofs and gutters repaired	3
External brickwork repointed or repaired	2
Dirty rooms cleansed or redecorated	6
Dampness remedied	4
Cooking ranges and firegrates repaired or renewed ...	4
Adequate water supply provided	3
Drains cleared and drainage systems repaired	23
W.c. and sink connections repaired... ..	11
Paving to yards and passages repaired	1
Dustbins provided	11
Water courses cleansed	2
Accumulations removed	7
Nuisance from the keeping of animals abated	—
Cowsheds and dairies limewashed	3
Dairy accommodation provided or improved	3
Cowshed approaches cleansed	3
Food preparers' premises improved	—
Rooms disinfected	38
Verminous houses disinfested	2
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	1
Factory defects remedied	1
Smoke nuisance abated	1
Moveable dwellings removed	1
Stables and Piggeries limewashed	1
Miscellaneous	2

TOTAL 148

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED AND PARTICULARS OF CONDEMNATIONS

	Cattle ex Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	8	41	43	2	266
Number inspected	8	41	43	2	266
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	3	—	—	—
Percentage (of the number in- spected) affected with disease (other than tuberculosis) ...	—	7.3	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	10	—	—	18
Percentage (of the number in- spected) affected with tuber- culosis	—	26.6	—	—	6.7

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS

Number of accredited milk producers	15
Number of tuberculin tested milk producers	2
Number of other producers	9
Number of retail purveyors	14

During the year 273 inspections were made of cowsheds, dairies and milkshops. 18 samples of milk were taken from purveyors within the district; of this number 4 were of designated milks of which one satisfied the standard imposed by the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936.

55 samples were taken from Accredited and Tuberculin Tested farms in the district by the County Council.

The following table gives the results of these samples:—

	No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Failed Meth. Blue	Failed B. Coli	Failed Both
Accredited Milk ...	45	32	2	7	4
Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	3	3	—	—	—
School Milk	5	4	—	1	—
Raw Milk	2	2	—	—	—

HOUSING

Summary of action taken

Remedy of Defects During the Year without Service of Formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	27
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	1
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners	1
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(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
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B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners	1
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(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
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